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LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 1 June 1995 from H.E. Mr. Muhamed Sacirbey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to Your Excellency.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

95-16284 (E) 010695 020695

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Annex

Letter dated 1 June 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

President Izetbegovic, on 29 May 1995, had made an urgent request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see S/1995/433) as well as to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the five members of the Contact Group, to receive clarification as to whether the United Nations and NATO exclusion zone around Sarajevo, and the related ultimatum, were being enforced.

We deserve and demand a formal reply. We have complied with the terms of the ultimatum, but now find ourselves under attack by the surrounding Serbian forces who have not complied. In fact, the Serbians have brought in new heavy weapons and are using stolen United Nations arms to attack and shell Sarajevo.

First, the ultimatum of NATO and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) regarding the heavy weapons within the Sarajevo exclusion zone and, afterwards, second the subsequent failure of NATO and UNPROFOR to enforce this commitment have left us vulnerable and at a tremendous disadvantage to the besieging Serbian forces. We understand and share the concern regarding the fate of United Nations hostages held by the Serbians. At the same time, the responsible leadership of the United Nations, the Security Council and NATO cannot sacrifice the welfare of the Bosnian civilians, the integrity of the safe area/exclusion zone and resolutions setting out the relevant mandate by exclusively focusing on the hostages. This, in fact, only invites further terrorism and hostage-taking. Finally, it should be pointed out that while the ultimatum has been forgotten, the air strikes stopped and the Serbian attacks reintensified, conversely, the Serbians have not only returned to targeting Bosnian civilians but have also taken more United Nations hostages, believing that they have the international community once again retreating and backing away from its commitments.

It is the Security Council's clear responsibility to keep its commitments which, if not maintained, will have tragic and negative consequences for the civilian population and our country. Or, at least the Council can give us a clear indication regarding its will to honour the Sarajevo safe area/heavy weapons exclusion zone and the related ultimatum and commitments.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Minister of Foreign Affairs